

## TYPES OF FLAGS

Infantry, cavalry and artillery units each carried their own distinctive style of flag.

Artillery batteries usually carried swallow-tailed guidons based on the standard stars and stripes, size about 30 by 36 inches. Two batteries (A and B) also had large (approximately 74 by 78 inches) yellow flags with a crossed cannon barrel design, but these were probably only used on formal occasions.

Cavalry commands could not carry large flags because of the difficulty managing them while on horseback. Standard cavalry regimental flags were blue with the state seal in the middle, size about 46 by 46 inches. Each of the twelve companies of a cavalry regiment carried its own swallow-tailed guidon, similar to artillery guidons in style and size.

Standard issue to an infantry regiment consisted of seven flags: a standard national flag, 72 by 78 inches, but with varying star patterns; a blue regimental flag of the same size, bearing the state seal or a federal eagle on both sides, or one of each design on each side; two flank markers, usually blue and about 24 inches square, which were used to mark the ends of the regimental battle line; two camp colors, often the same size as the flank markers; and a storm flag.

Flags could be obtained by state issue, federal issue, or private donation. State issued flags were most common. They were mostly made by Horstmann Brothers in 1861-1862 and Evans & Hassall in 1862-1865; both firms were from Philadelphia. Infantry standards usually cost from \$50-\$100, while cavalry standards were about \$33 and artillery/cavalry guidons \$10-\$12. Camp colors and flank markers cost about \$3 and storm flags about \$10. (The typical workingman's pay at this time was about \$200 a year.)

Almost all of the state's flags were made of silk; a few of the smaller ones are of cotton bunting, and one in the collection is wool. Most early war regiments wore out two sets of flags, and surviving units received a third set in 1864-1865. Battle honors were often painted on the stripes of the national flags carried by infantry regiments, or were written on streamers attached to the top of the flag staff.



No. 90      Regimental Color, 23rd Infantry.



No. 20    National Color with battle honors, 3rd Infantry.



No. 93    National Color with battle honors, 33rd Infantry.



No. 68    Regimental Color, 14th Infantry.



No. 122 Swallow-tailed guidon with battle honors, 4th Battery.